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THOSE DEADLY PISTOLS, AND PISTOL  
ADVERTISEMENTS.

JOSIAH W. LEEDS.

I was very glad to see in the *Illustrated Christian Weekly* of a late date, an editorial strongly reprobating the very common practice of carrying or keeping a revolver as a protection against prospective thieves or highwaymen. To the testimony of the aged business man which is there cited, I wish to add also that of a Presbyterian, who, for a while, was the president of a Young Men's Christian Association in a large city, to the effect that, years ago, he had had occasion to journey on horseback, or on foot, through pretty much every State and Territory of the "Wild West," and had observed the invariable rule never to carry a deadly weapon. Although he had been in apparently dangerous straits he had never suffered any harm.

Very instructive, touching, one might say, in the early missionary life of Titus Coan, was that incident of his sojourn in the Island of Tierra del Fuego, when he came to the decision that in order to convince the distrustful natives of the entire good will and inoffensiveness of his purpose in coming among them, it would be necessary to leave behind the rather long-bladed pocket knife which he had proposed to carry. The annals of missionary travel and sojourn in Central and Southern Africa, as set forth in the letters and journals of Livingstone, Moffatt, Arnot, Taylor, Coillard, Richard and others, show forth the wisdom of putting one's life and property under the Lord's care for safe keeping.

Upon the matter of advertising these dangerous weapons, the writer has long been of the opinion that it would be more in accord with the profession we make as followers of the Prince of Peace, if the editors and publishers of religious journals would decline to receive such advertisements. It is true that not all the purchasers of guns and pistols desire to possess those articles mainly as weapons of protection from possible thieves and murderers. Many wish to get them for purposes of gunning, some that they may find amusement in shooting at a mark. Nevertheless, the instances of the fatal misuse of the pistol have become so common, and so common is the custom of keeping a revolver about the house, or even on the person, that it were well, it seems to me, to refrain from printing the invitations to purchase them.

I remember, very soon after the assassination of President Garfield, noticing in a religious paper of large circulation that then came to me from the South, a large displayed advertisement of a revolver of the same pattern as that which had laid low our lamented Chief Magistrate upon the depot floor at Washington. A kindly remonstrance to the editor quickly brought back the response that the publisher had admitted the advertisement without his knowledge and contrary to his wish; and with it came a written duplicate of the copy he had already sent to the composing room, which, expressing his regret that the advertisement of the murderous weapon had appeared in his journal, certified further to the sincerity of his own convictions on the subject. An editorial on the wrongfulness of the world's war systems, and encouraging the reference of international difficulties to arbitration, was a not uncommon theme in that paper.

And now, as I read to-day, how the protracted dispute over the Behring Sea fisheries has suddenly, and, I

trust, auspiciously, been relegated to the United States Supreme Court for decision (in what is intended to be a test case), I feel a deep sense of thankfulness that this threatening question, which seemed so likely to sever the peace between two affiliated and avowedly Christian nations has thus taken on a serener aspect, and that the guilt of a deadly strife will happily be avoided.—*Illustrated Christian Weekly*.

PHILADELPHIA.

## FRIENDS AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

Much warmth of interest was shown in the Conference of representative Friends at Richmond, Ind., Dec. 9. The key-note of the duty of the hour in connection with this subject appears to us to have been struck in the minute or epistle of the New England Yearly Meeting's Committee: to the effect that there is pressing need of "an appeal to the judgment and conscience of religious teachers everywhere, convincing them that war is not only cruel, useless and wicked, but that all its fruits are evil continually, and that it is always and everywhere a flagrant violation both of the precepts and the commands of Christ."

Were all the ministers of religion in any one nation of Christendom prepared to unite with the Society of Friends on the subject of Peace, and to set forth their conviction of the unholiness and unlawfulness of war to those under their influence for a dozen years, such teaching, with concurrent living examples, would make war on the part of such a nation almost impossible; and might soon shame the leading powers of the world into disarmament. At present the great drawback to the progress of the cause of Peace is, that the Christian truth about it has to be preached to the preachers; most of them do not believe it.—*The Friends' Review*.

## LABOR REFORM.

I believe that in the adoption of the philosophy of the religion of Jesus Christ, as a practical creed for the conduct of business, lies the surest and speediest solution of those industrial difficulties which are exciting the minds of men to-day and leading many to think that the crisis of government is at hand.—*Carroll D. Wright*.

It has often been argued, as against Arbitration between nations, that it would have been inapplicable, or inefficacious, in such cases as the Franco-German strife of 1870. Be that as it may, who can for a moment suppose that that most unwise and uncalled-for quarrel would have been permitted to result in war, if, at the time, the difficulty in question had been submitted to the counsel and judgment of ten or twelve of the ablest men in both countries, instead of being hurried to extremities by two or three hysteric statesmen, with perhaps a woman similarly heedless of results.—*Herald of Peace*.

It would not be worth while to live if we were to die entirely. That which lightens labor and hallows toil is to have before us the vision of a better world through the darkness of this life. That world is forever before my eyes. It is the supreme certainty of my reason, as it is the supreme consolation of my soul.—*Victor Hugo*.